

JAMES E. BICKFORD  
SECRETARY



PAUL E. PATTON  
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CABINET  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
FRANKFORT KENTUCKY 40601  
TELEPHONE: (502) 564-3350

February 13, 2002

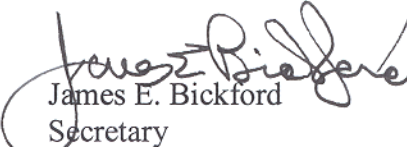
Ms. Aloma Dew, Chair  
Environmental Quality Commission  
14 Reilly Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Aloma:

Governor Patton has forwarded your letter of January 14, 2002 regarding your concerns about the blackside dace to me for a response. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations are not binding actions on the Commonwealth in the instance you cited. State water quality regulations require that federally threatened aquatic species, such as the blackside dace, be protected from water quality degradation and habitat destruction. The cabinet will ensure that any mining that takes place will meet these requirements.

The Governor and I share your feelings that Kentucky's natural beauty needs protection and our environmental laws help us all in this regard.

Sincerely,

  
James E. Bickford  
Secretary

JEB:dh



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